

The Condition of Middle Class in America Today

The middle class is simply defined as a group of people who fall in the middle of the hierarchy. The common aspects which measure what the middle class constitutes they vary significantly among different cultures. A middle class which is healthy and sizable can be seen to contribute to a healthy society. The size of the middle class normally depends on how one defines it, and it can be defined regarding education, social networks, the wealth status of the people in that group, values, manners, and environment of upbringing. In the modern usage, people view middle class differently. People will be classified in the middle class by considering some factors; whether they have achieved tertiary education, if they have professional qualifications, for instance, doctors, lawyers, politicians and academics, and finally the lifestyle of the citizens. Most of the economic analyses tend to use the level of income as the only point when trying to define a measure (Frank, 2007).

Economic Dynamics in America

According to research, it is shown that most Americans today consider themselves as middle class. A survey that was carried on the 21st century, that is on 2005 in New York found that it was only 1% of the people who were interviewed considered themselves as upper class and only 7% said to belong to lower class families. The remaining population was either working or middle class (Cashel, 2008). When the term middle class runs in the minds of many people what first comes into their mind is the level of income a person has. Following much research which has been conducted many people with very low and very high-income levels classify themselves as members of the middle class, therefore it is not advisable to only use income level to classify a person. This has led to social scientists coming up with other different ways that

could make people get a clear understanding of the term middle class. Therefore they say that middle class is a combination of expectations, aspirations, and the level of income.

Families from middle level and those people who are aiming to fall under middle class they always want to be economically stable, they want to have a better home. They are also working hard to safeguard the health of their children and also take them to at least a better school where they will be able to get a quality education and where they will not struggle. Apart from meeting the basic needs, they are also interested in luxury life whereby they want to take their families for vacations and own their cars. Indeed, considered as being a middle class it much more about setting their objectives and doing as much as they can to achieve those objectives.

Income Dynamics in America

This grants theoretical budgets to how those families with aspirations to belong to the middle class can easily achieve those objectives at different levels of income. The report tries to convince that even those families with a lower level of income can achieve to live middle-class lifestyles this can only happen if they live in houses which charge low costs. The objective will be difficult to achieve since they will have to force themselves to make difficult trade-offs. Due to higher prices for housing, it has made the life of families hard even those who are considered to be above the income distribution of the middle class. For instance, higher medical charges and increase in family expenditures for either elder or child treatment can quickly contribute to making life unachievable. If we compare the opportunities that the middle class families were facing in two periods ago, for instance, in early 1990s get that although the income levels have improved among the households with for example two kids, even after calculating for the

increase in the general price level, much of this increase took place in the 19th century; the level of income has been fairly stationary since the year 2000. On top of that, you get that many of the household members in America today are at work for extra periods to sustain their incomes at higher positions. The price of the three most basic needs, for instance, health care, housing, and college have increased more than the level of income. This has made even middle-class condition hard to maintain or to achieve as compared to two decades ago.

Status of Education in America

Education is essential especially when families care about the future of their sons and daughters. Therefore many families have made good plans, and they have sacrificed themselves only for the benefit of their children in the next generation. Robert Putnam (2015), in his book “Our kids” focuses on education level by defining classes by considering the highest level attained by an individual. One of the important objectives that families in the middle class want to achieve is that they should take their children to schools to prepare themselves in the future and also be recognized as members of the middle class as well as their children to enjoy the future economic opportunities. Therefore according to surveys which have been conducted, it indicates that at least a higher percentage of the Americans have been educated thus making the condition of the middle class to be better.

The condition of the middle class can finally be approached by looking at the wealth of an individual rather than income. *Capital in the twenty-first century*, (Thomas Piketty, 2014) once defined middle class by considering the wealth holdings. As noted earlier, some wealth is said to be important for the existence of the middle class. He argues that people did not have much wealth reason being most of the wealth that the household members had accumulated

destroyed two world wars. After the world wars, people went back to look for jobs so that they can try a and recover the money which was wasted and educate their children as well as take care of the family in case of any infection.

Conclusion

In conclusion, America is a developed economy it means that they have attained all the basic needs and also the social needs have been fully attained. This shows that most families have educated their children who are trying to benefit from the current opportunities and also those who have not attained are in the process, and most families have at least a home and them cars which is a clear indication that social life is well meet, and this makes the condition of the middle class at least in a better position as compared to the 20th century.

References

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